

Obs. Species quoad colores ad *G. ruficapillam* appropinquans, sed gutture rubro, flammulis laterum latis et distinctis et rostro crasso notabilis.

Of this fine new and most distinct Ant-Thrush, Mr. Buckley obtained two specimens. According to Sclater's arrangement of the genus (*Ibis*, 1877, p. 437), it should perhaps come next to *G. ruficapilla*, but it has a particularly large strong bill like that of *G. squamigera*, only shorter. The bright ferruginous red breast and strong white flammulations render this species quite unmistakable.

Fam. PICIDÆ.

18. CELEUS SPECTABILIS, sp. nov.

♀. *Capite cristato toto cum gula et alis extus castaneis, harum tetricibus et scapularibus cum dorso superiore nigro et fulvo transfasciatis; dorso postico fulvo immaculato; pectore nigro; ventre fulvo, præcipue in parte superiore nigro maculato; cauda tota et remigum primariorum apicibus nigris; horum pagina inferiore ad basin castanea; subalaribus fulvis, maculis paucis nigris notatis; rostro albido; pedibus pallide fuscis; long. tota 9·2, alæ 6, caudæ 4, rostri a rictu 1·4.*

Hab. Sarayacu, Ecuador (*Buckley*).

Mus. S.-G.

Obs. Affinis *C. torquato* et *C. tinnunculo*, sed ab hoc uropygio fulvo ab illo dorso fasciato distinctus.

There is unfortunately only one example of this fine and distinct *Celeus* in Mr. Buckley's collection. The male would, no doubt, show a red cheek-patch, as in the allied species.

Fam. RALLIDÆ.

19. PORZANA ŒNOPS, sp. nov.

Supra olivaceo-fusca, dorso postico et cauda nigricante brunneo indutis; fronte, capitis cervicis et pectoris lateribus rubro-castaneis; subtus gastræo toto albo, hypochondriis nigro late transfasciatis; crisso rufo; rostro viridescente fusco; pedibus corylinis: long. tota 5·7, alæ 3·2, caudæ 1·5, rostri a rictu 0·9, tarsi 1·4, dig. med. cum ungue 1·7.

Hab. Sarayacu, Ecuador (*Buckley*).

Mus. S.-G.

Obs. *P. albigulari*, Lawr., affinis, sed collo postico et dorso antico olivaceo-fuscis nec rufescentibus, et gastræo toto medio albo digrescenda.

5. On the Sea-birds obtained during the Voyage of Lord Lindsay's Yacht 'Venus' from Plymouth to Mauritius in 1874. By HOWARD SAUNDERS, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

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A short time ago Dr. Ralph Copeland, of the Dunecht Observatory, Aberdeen, offered to obtain for my inspection a collection of

Sea-birds procured by Lord Lindsay's party during the voyage to Mauritius to observe the Transit of Venus; and as he also informed me that an accurate register had been kept of the date and the latitude and longitude of each capture, I gladly accepted the task of identifying the species and preparing a list of them. The collection proved to consist of eighteen species, most of them belonging to the Procellariidæ; but of these several are uncommon and little-known forms. Others are more familiar species; but no specimens can well be considered superfluous in assisting to determine the validity of some of the reputed species in this difficult group, which has lately been taken up by Mr. Osbert Salvin, to whom I am in several cases indebted for valuable assistance.

Unusual care appears to have been taken in forming this collection, each specimen being numbered and entered under a corresponding number in a register kept by Dr. J. Galley Blackley, with particulars of date, latitude and longitude of the ship at noon, temperature of the air and of the water, &c. Dr. Copeland's journal has also supplied some other particulars, which I have quoted *verbatim*. The above details are of considerable value, as they furnish a record of the degrees of latitude where these oceanic species are first met with; and if similar registers were kept by other ships, and the specimens obtained were brought back for identification, we should in time arrive at some definite knowledge of the range of these pelagic wanderers. Allusions to the occurrence of the first Albatros, "Mollymawk," "Cape Hen," "Cape Pigeon," &c. are, indeed, not wanting in voyages; but there are few records similar to the present in which registration has been followed by identification in the case of so large a number of species.

The 'Venus' left Plymouth in October 1874, and the first species on the list was obtained off Trinidad (not to be confounded with our large West-Indian possession), a small island about six miles in circumference, situated in the South Atlantic Ocean in lat. $20^{\circ} 23' S.$, and long. $29^{\circ} 43' W.$ This rugged rock, with precipitous cliffs, scanty and irregular water supply, and deficient in timber beyond mere brushwood, was originally taken possession of for Great Britain by Captain E. Halley, of the 'Paramore' (afterwards Dr. Halley, Astronomer Royal), in 1700, and in 1781 was occupied for about two months; since which the most important visits have been those of the French corvette 'La Coquille' in 1822, when the island was surveyed, and that of the Italian corvette 'Magenta' in 1868, when two species of Petrel were obtained and described as new. Dr. E. H. Giglioli then recorded for the first time the occurrence in that island of the beautiful snow-white and highly specialized form of Tern *Gygis candida*, of which there is one specimen in the present collection. I gather from the scanty material at my disposal that some of Lord Lindsay's party landed on this island, which is difficult of access owing to its being surrounded by coral reef, although the island itself belongs to the same formation as the coast about Rio Janeiro; and the paucity of notes on the species observed is therefore the more to be regretted. To make

matters worse, most of the birds collected there were thrown overboard as lumbering the decks in some heavy weather on the night after the visit; and it is perhaps owing to this that no examples are in the collection of *Æstrelata arminjoniana* and *Æ. trinitatis* obtained by the 'Magenta's' naturalists.

1. FREGATA AQUILA (Linn.) Frigate-bird.

Two specimens, nos. 22 and 23, both females in immature plumage, passing into the adult stage. As this plumage is rarely met with and is little known, it is as well to describe it. The wings, back, and tail are black, with a bar of old brown light-edged feathers along the upper wing-coverts; belly white; flanks and under wing-coverts black; shoulders rusty black passing into chestnut, which pervades the throat; neck, nape, and crown of head white slightly tinged with rust; bill horn-white.

"Off island of Trinidad, South Atlantic, Aug. 20, lat. 20° 23' S., long. 29° 43' W. Temperature of air 77° Fahr. and of water 71°. Large numbers seen; some deep black with scarlet pouch under the throat. Found them sitting on the island."

2. SULA PISCATOR (Linn.).

No. 24, fully adult. Island of Trinidad, same date as above. "These also were sitting."

3. PHALACROCORAX CAPENSIS (Sparm.).

No. 76, female immature. Simons Bay, Cape of Good Hope, Oct. 2.

No. 76a, adult. Same time and place.

4. PHAËTHON FLAVIROSTRIS, Brandt.

No. 100, female, nearly adult. "Shot hovering round masts," Oct. 29, lat. 23° S., long. 59° 18' W.

5. GYGIS CANDIDA (Gm.).

No. 28, female. Island of Trinidad, Aug. 21. "Breeding. Iris black." There is a fine illustration of this beautiful species in Gould's 'Birds of Australia,' vii. pl. 30.

6. STERNA MACRURA, Naum. Arctic Tern.

No. 95, male. Oct. 23, lat. 32° S., long. 57° 18' E. "Flew on board in the night, commencement of S.E. monsoon."

This specimen is an adult with full black head, excepting on the forehead, where the feathers are white, as usual in autumn. It belongs certainly to this species, which I have also had on one occasion from the Cape of Good Hope; but this is yet more south and east for its range. It might have been expected that *S. virgata* or *S. vittata*, both inhabitants of the islands of the Southern Ocean, would have

been obtained, but they are not noticed, nor are they known to occur in Table Bay.

7. FREGETTA MELANOASTRA (Gould).

Thalassidroma melanogastra, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 62.

Nos. 86, 88, males. Oct. 15, lat. $36^{\circ} 57' S.$, long. $40^{\circ} 41' E.$

No. 91, female. Oct. 19, lat. $32^{\circ} 36' S.$, long. $52^{\circ} 58' E.$

8. OCEANITES OCEANICUS (Kuhl). Wilson's Petrel.

Thalassidroma wilsonii, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 65.

No. 64. Sept. 22, lat. $35^{\circ} 29' S.$, long. $9^{\circ} 46' E.$

No. 90. Oct. 19, lat. $32^{\circ} 36' S.$, long. $52^{\circ} 58' E.$ Female.

Both these specimens have the vent and under tail-coverts *black*, and not white, as coloured in Gould's 'Birds of Australia.'

9. ADAMASTOR CINEREUS (Gm.). "Whale-bird."

Procellaria hastata, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 47.

Nos. 60 (female), 61, 62. Sept. 21, lat. $35^{\circ} 20' S.$, long. $9^{\circ} 43' E.$

In one specimen the black and yellow colours of the bill are more strongly marked than in the other two.

10. MAJAEQUEUS ÆQUINOCTIALIS (Linn.).

Procellaria conspicillata, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 46.

No. 56. Sept. 19, lat. $34^{\circ} 39' S.$, long. $8^{\circ} 51' E.$

No. 93. Oct. 20, lat. $32^{\circ} S.$

No. 97, male. Oct. 24, lat. $29^{\circ} 45' S.$

The variations in these specimens are rather peculiar. In all the prevailing colour is sooty black; but in the first there is a white patch of about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in length under lower mandible, and an irregular white streak on the left side, below the line of the gape, but none on the right side; the second has rather more white on throat; and in the third, the white extends as far back as a line from the eyes.

11. ÆSTRELATA MOLLIS (Gould).

Procellaria mollis, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 50.

No. 41. Island of Trinidad, Aug. 21. "Knocked down with a stick on island."

12. ÆSTRELATA PHILIPPI, G. R. Gray.

No. 80. Oct. 10, lat. $37^{\circ} 59' S.$, long. $29^{\circ} 18' E.$

13. DAPTION CAPENSIS (Linn.). "Cape Pigeon."

Daption capensis, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 53.

Nos. 46, 46a, 48. Aug. 27 onwards, the first being observed on Aug. 26, in lat. $23^{\circ} 30' S.$; temperature of air 65° , water 67° . "Sept. 19, many thousands of these and 'Ice-birds' flying round; they seemed to extend in undiminished numbers to the horizon."

14. OSSIFRAGA GIGANTEA (Gm.). "Cape Hen."

Procellaria gigantea, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 45.

No. 50, male. Sept. 10, lat. 34° S., long. $10^{\circ} 42'$ W. "Beak pale apple-green, much darker at tip; iris dark brown; feet sooty black."

No. 52. Sept. 14. "Beak greyish green, darker at tip; iris dark brown; feet silvery brown. Spread of wing 6 feet 7 inches."

Both these specimens are much darker than the figure in Gould's pl. xlv. 'Birds of Australia.'

15. PRION DESOLATUS (Gm.). "Ice-bird."

Nos. 57, 58, male. Sept. 21, lat. $35^{\circ} 20'$ S., long. $9^{\circ} 43'$ E.

No. 89. Oct. 15, lat. $36^{\circ} 57'$ S., long. $40^{\circ} 41'$ E.

The two former have a distinct yellowish nail at the tip of the upper mandible; the last has a slightly narrower bill—differences which, if admitted as specific, appear to be the distinguishing characteristics of *P. vittatus* and *P. desolatus*.

16. DIOMEDEA CHLORORHYNCHA, Lath. "Mollymawk."

Diomedea chlororhynchos, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 42.

No. 51, female. Sept. 14, lat. $34^{\circ} 25'$ S.

No. 96, male. Oct. 24, lat. $29^{\circ} 45'$ S., long. $57^{\circ} 39'$ E.; temperature of both air and water 67° . Mr. Gould met with it on the 24th July, 1838, in lat. $30^{\circ} 38'$ S.

17. DIOMEDEA EXULANS, Linn.

Diomedea exulans, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 38.

Nos. 53, male, and 55, female. Sept. 16, lat. 34° S., long. $4^{\circ} 29'$ E. "The male is an adult, nearly white; spread of wings 10 feet 3 inches, nett weight 19 lb. Contained 10 lb. of water and cuttle; but the water was probably swallowed whilst being hauled on board. Feet 9 inches broad when spread out. Female, total weight about 15 lb. Iris dark brown, beak pink, feet bluish."

No. 85. Oct. 12, lat. $39^{\circ} 40'$ S., long. $32^{\circ} 19'$ E. Young, much mottled with grey.

Mr. Gould records its occurrence same date as above.

18. DIOMEDEA FULIGINOSA, Gm.

Diomedea fuliginosa, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 44.

No. 79, male. Oct. 10, lat. $37^{\circ} 59'$ S., long. $29^{\circ} 18'$ E.

Mr. Gould notes its first occurrence in July, in one of his voyages, in lat. 31° S.